

REMARKS

It is respectfully submitted that the amendments to claim 7 eliminate the grounds for rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112 under both the enablement requirement and written description. Examples 1 and 3 of the specification explain that the chicken GHRH receptor comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4 will bind, on a competitive basis, labeled human GHRH and the chicken GHRH polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 2. Further, the competitive binding experiment of Example 3 demonstrates that previously reported chicken GHRH polypeptide had no activity binding or signaling at the cloned recombinant chicken GHRH receptor.

The amendment to claim 7 adds the limitation that an amino acid sequence that differs from SEQ ID NO: 4 by one or more conservative amino acid substitutions must also bind human GHRH and the chicken GHRH polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 2. Applicants urge that the added limitation obviates the written description rejection.

With regard to the §102 rejection, applicants respectfully submit that amendments to the claims reciting that the chicken GHRH receptor is purified distinguishes over the Porter reference. The Porter reference: 1) fails to present any sequence information for a bird GHRH receptor; 2) fails to describe a chicken GHRH receptor; and 3) fails to show how to isolate or extract a chicken GHRH receptor.

Further, the Porter reference fails to teach or suggest the existence of even a functional bird GHRH molecule, much less one specifically for chicken. Porter reported that chicken pituitary cells are responsive to mammalian (human) GHRH. That, by itself, does not amount to a teaching or suggestion that birds generally, and chickens specifically, have a distinct GHRH-receptor; and, even if one were to infer that was the case, the reference fails to teach or suggest how to identify, isolate or

purify such a receptor. Applicants submit that the amendment obviates the rejection over the Porter reference.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of all outstanding rejections. Applicants submit that the claims are now in condition for allowance, and respectfully request formal notification to that effect. If, however, the Examiner perceives any impediments to such a notice of allowability, whether substantive or formal, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone Applicants' attorney at the number provided below. Such informal communication will expedite examination and disposition of this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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